

MARK SMYTHE NEWSLETTER

Edition 13 - January & February 2012



David Powell
Australian Singles Champion
2006 (U16), 2009 (U18) & 2010 (U21)



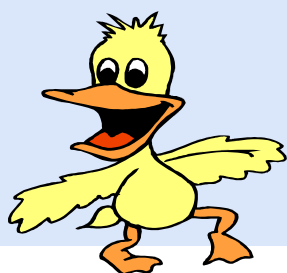
Heming Hu
Australian Singles Champion
2007 (U13&15), 2008 (U15),
2009 (U15) & 2010 (U18)



Lily Phan
Australian Singles Champion
2006 (U14), 2008 (U13&15) & 2009 (U15)



Dominic Huang
Australian Singles Champion
2011 (U13)



HIGHLIGHTS OF PLAYERS I COACH

David Powell misses out on qualifying for Olympics Games by one spot

After an exhausting, complicated & fair process through the Australian Qualifying (Feb. 16-19) then Oceania Qualifying (March 5-8), David was very close to qualifying for the London Olympics but missed by one spot. As much as it's a disappointment, it can be viewed as a highlight after proving he was good enough but lost a match at the wrong time.

David was seeded 6th for the Australian Qualifying and finished 3rd (by 3 points in a count back with Justin Han) therefore leapfrogged Simon Gerada (2nd seed) and Trent Carter (5th seed) in the process.

Moving onto to the Oceania Qualifying, David made the final of the 1st stage (Round Robin then knockout) after beating Phillip Zhou of NZ 4-0 in SF – earlier Phil had finished first on count back in his group which included Justin Han and Robert Frank - but lost to William Henzell 4-0 that decided the first qualifier (Singles spot) into the Olympics.

The next stage was a knockout event to decide the second qualifier where David was no. 1 seed. He made the SF and had to play Phillip Zhou again but this time lost 4-1 while Justin Han beat Robert 4-2 in the other SF then Justin won the final 4-1 to claim (last Singles spot for Australia) his spot. By the rules, David and Robert were not permitted to play the last knockout event due to Australian already filling the maximum quota of Singles players. As Robert finished 2nd at Australian Qualifying and David 3rd the rules state Robert qualifies as the 3rd and final member of Australian Team.

David Powell selected in Australian Team for World Championships

Following his strong performances at the Australian Olympic Qualifying Event, David was selected in the National Team to compete at the upcoming World Team Championships in Dortmund/Germany from March 25 – April 1. It's expected over 100 countries will be participating – a true world sport!!

Yang Shen selected in Australian U15 B Team

Yang (14 years old) was selected in the Australian U15 B Team for the World Junior Circuit event held in New Zealand from April 15-22. This is Yang's first time he'll be representing the country.

Heming Hu wins first Victorian Senior tournament of the year

Heming had a great start to the year by winning the Men's Singles at MSAC Senior Open. In the final he played former Indian National Team player Shibaji Datta and won in a thrilling 7 sets after being 2 match points down (10-8) in the 6th set.

Heming wins first Victorian Junior tournament of the year

As expected, on paper at least, Heming won the U21 & 18 Singles titles at Bendigo Junior Open. He was the no. 1 seed for both events and defeated no. 2 seed, Dillon Cathcart, in the final of both events.

Atul wins U13 Boys Singles at Bendigo Open

Atul, no. 1 seed, accounted for Kevin Leung in the final of U13 Boys Singles and starts what could be a very good year where he is striving to become Australian Champion later this year.

GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

6 Australian players qualify for London Olympic Games

After many twists, turns and potential various scenarios, the following players qualified for Olympics,

Men
William Henzell (Singles & Team)
Justin Han (Singles & Team)
Robert Frank (Team)

Women
Jian Fang Lay (Singles & Team)
Miao Miao (Singles & Team)
Vivian Tan (Team).

Wishing all players the best of luck!!

Australian Junior & Cadet Teams announced for World Junior Circuit Event

The following players were selected to represent the country at World Junior Circuit Event in New Zealand from April 15-22,

<u>U18 Boys</u>	<u>U18 Girls</u>	<u>U15 Boys</u>	<u>U15 Girls</u>
Dillon Cathcart	Vy Bui	Jake Duffy	Madeline Goodsell
David Fielding	Kayla Coombes	Dominic Huang	Sarah Tan
Erny Tsao	Anna Du	Ivan Sulfaro	Vanessa Tan

<u>U18 Boys B</u>	<u>U18 Girls B</u>	<u>U15 Boys B</u>	<u>U15 Girls B</u>
Danny Rauv	Eliza Forster	Yang Shen	Mia Cross
Nathan Van De Heiden	Sandy Masen	Leon Suy	Catherine Duong
Sam Von Einem		Daniel Zou	Darcie Morton

MARK SMYTHE ELITE TRAINING SQUAD

- **This is a new initiative I have created in order to help players around Australia.**
- **In 2012 I am offering 50 hours of group training sessions which will be free of charge for the invited players. I'm running program on a voluntary basis.**
- **Players eligible this year are those in the 2012 National Squad who are sponsored by Butterfly.**
- **Table Tennis Australia has officially supported this program.**
- **High quality training that is free of charge! Who wouldn't want to be part of this program?**
- **If you are one of the best players in the State for your age group/category and wish to apply for a Butterfly sponsorship you can email Butterfly Australia (David or Brett) on butterflya@optusnet.com.au**

HANDY HINTS

If you want to be more inspired by Table Tennis, visit YouTube and type in “table tennis best shots of 2011” then click on “best table tennis shots of 2011 (xmas edition)”. Once you watch this then other similar clips I’m sure you will be inspired!!

BITS AND PIECES

Table Tennis Victoria’s tournament organiser for senior category, Jeff Plumb, speaks about the new tournament format that was trialled on 5th February

Table Tennis Victoria was keen to try a new format for tournaments to achieve the following objectives:

- Remove long waits between matches
- Give players a minimum of 5 matches
- Have players compete against players of a similar standard or age group
- Finish most events within 4 hours
- Have a featured Men's & Women's Open singles which also finishes in half a day
- Simplify the cost structure

The final format used for the trial was developed with help from Alois Rosario, Greg Robbins, Mark Smythe, Mark Taylor and the tournament committee of Brinnen Reiss, Angelo Tabone and Bob Grattidge. Players were allowed to enter a single event in the morning and played a round robin giving them at least 5 matches. The round robin format works well as players are never waiting a long time before they play a match. By only allowing players to enter a single event there were no conflicts stopping matches being played. In the afternoon, the Men's Open and Women's Open singles were played in a knockout format. Any person entering the morning event had the option of playing in the open singles. The idea was that the morning event was all about participation and giving players the most amount of matches in a short time frame whereas the afternoon event was all about finding the best players.

The MSAC Open was chosen as the tournament to try the new format and it worked very well. An online survey was conducted after the event and the responses were very positive. Here are the questions and answers:

Should the new format be used at other tournaments?

Yes - every tournament should use the new format - **42.1%**

Sometimes - I think it should be mixed in with the usual format - **57.9%**

No - I don't think the new format worked - **0%**

What did you think of the entry fee?

Too expensive - **41.2%**

Just right - **58.8%**

Too cheap - **0%**

How long would you like to spend at the hall for a tournament?

2 hours - **0%**

4 hours - **73.7%**

8 hours - **26.3%**

Should the new format be used at the upcoming Easter Classic?

Yes - **73.7%**

No - **26.3%**

Based on the success of the tournament and the feedback received, the new format will definitely be used again.

Regards,
Jeff.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Through the year I hope to get some of Australia's former top players to write about their careers and what they have been up to since finishing representing the country. First up is Trevor Brown.

My Table Tennis career and beyond

By Trevor Brown

As many of you know, I was a better junior than senior, winning a few national junior titles until entering into the senior ranks. From there, I represented Australia at senior level for the first time at the 1997 World Championships, and for the last time at the 2007 World Championships. But results-wise I was always just a little behind the top few players – initially it was Russell Lavale, then William Henzell. While I was always competitive, and beat them a few times, I never won a national singles title at senior level. Teaming with Lavale, however, I did manage to win three national and three Oceania doubles titles.

Over those years of representing Australia, I played league in Sweden and Poland for a year each, and then in France for 10 years. I had some great experiences playing against and training with the best players in those countries, learning languages, and meeting my French wife. It was a very enriching time – very challenging and difficult at times – but I used that time to train hard and compete in the league to prepare for international competitions, as well as teaching English part-time to supplement my salary, and do a 4-year psychology degree (part-time, off-campus) over 9 years.

In 2005 my wife had our first child, and International competition became considerably more difficult from that time forward. However, I qualified 2nd for the 2006 Commonwealth Games team - my major goal for some years after having missed the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. It was a huge relief, and was really the most enjoyable moment in my career. I began reducing training the following year, increasing my teaching, and my family life took a lot more of my time. I was on the way out.

Amazingly, at the end of 2009 several huge changes to my life occurred simultaneously which all pointed to coming back to Australia. An abrupt end to my table tennis career in France arose due to falling ill with a form of arthritis called Ankylosing Spondylitis. I finished my university degree. The birth of my 3rd child prompted the need to move house. And finally, my first son was ready to start school. I could now find a job in Melbourne having completed my studies, in Australia we could buy a bigger house which was needed with a third child on the way, and my son could start school in Prep along with all the other kids of his age. Problem solved! We'd been talking about this move to Australia for some years, but had never been in the position to do it. It was now or never.

I began looking for a job in Melbourne whilst still in France, emailing my CV and applying for jobs. Fortunately, attending a workshop in London to specialize in neurofeedback (EEG biofeedback) and QEEG brain mapping in 2009 helped me set-up a job in a psychology clinic in Balwyn upon my arrival in Melbourne. I've now been working there full time since August 2010, but will be going down to 4 days per week this year to begin my PhD. I'll be specializing even further in neuropsychology by attempting to further our knowledge on the EEG signatures (brain map differences) of elite athletes, and how to increase performance using neurofeedback.

As you can see, I've turned the page from being a full-time player, to now focusing on a career; still aiming to be the best I can be, but in a new area that doesn't involve being physically apt. I love playing table tennis, and have trained half a dozen times over the last couple of months with an old doubles partner, Jamie Paul (we won the Australian Under 15 title together). The back hurts like hell, and I'm tired after half an hour, but we've enjoyed it so much that we're even going to play the next season of senior pennant down at CDTTA together! I grew up playing at Croydon & Districts TTA, have been around the world, and now come back again to where it all started.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

NATIONAL

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC QUALIFYING (Feb. 16-19) – 2 played

David Powell (seeded 6)

1st Round Robin – 8 players

Beat Justin Han 4-1

Beat Simon Gerada 4-2

Lost to Robbie Frank 4-3

Lost to William Henzell 4-0

Beat Kiet Tran 4-0

Lost to Trent Carter 4-1

Beat Wade Townsend 4-2

2nd Round Robin – 4 players

Beat Simon Gerada 4-2

Beat Trent Carter 4-0

Lost to Justin Han 4-1

David finished 3rd, on count back by 3 points, from Justin Han.

Heming Hu (unseeded)

Lost to Kiet Tran 4-0

(day before official qualifying event commence)

STATE

MSAC SENIOR OPEN (Feb. 5)

Heming Hu

Won Open Men's Singles

Dominic McDonnell

R-up Division 3 Singles

ADVERTISING

This is free of charge and restricted to players I have coached or currently coach and their families.

BUTTERFLY – The Worlds leading brand in Table Tennis Equipment. For all your Table Tennis requirements, Tables, Bats, Balls, Rubber Sheets, Clothing, Shoes and Accessories:

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**Butterfly Australia is a proud sponsor of
Mark Smythe's coaching programs**



MARK SMYTHE

DISTANCE COACHING

CONCEPT

Help players improve their level regardless where you live.

MY CREDENTIALS

COACH

- Since 2002, players (12) I've coached (one on one) have won 48 Australian Individual (Singles & Doubles) Titles with 7 starting with me from beginner or very low level
- Since 1996, coached 50 players that have made Victorian Junior Teams including, 16 in 2011, 16 in 2010, 14 in 2009 and 19 in 2008
- Head Coach of Australian Table Tennis Team at 2006 Commonwealth Games and coached Australian Junior Teams at International Tournaments 4 times in 2003 & 2004
- Victorian Table Tennis Coach of the Year 2009, 2007, 2005, 2003, 2001 & 1999
- Self-employed and have coached hundreds of players covering all different levels (beginners to highest level in Australia) and ages (7 – 70's) with great success
- Qualified Level 2

PLAYER

- 2000 & 1996 Represented Australia at Olympic Games
- 1995-2000 Member of Australian Team
- 1998 Australian Men's Singles Champion
- 1998 Australian Senior Player of the Year
- 1998 Oceania Men's Singles Champion
- 1990 Australian Under 17 Boys Singles Champion
- 1990 Australian Junior Player of the Year
- 1988 Australian Under 15 Boys Singles Champion



HOW IT WORKS

Send your matches and/or training sessions to me then I'll provide a report on how to improve your standard and send back to you.

SERVICE PROVIDED

- Identify current strengths & weaknesses
- Suggest how to improve weaknesses
- Suggest how to improve techniques on various shots
- Suggest how to organise training sessions to improve your overall game (shots, techniques, movement, etc)
- Suggest how to utilize your strengths in matches from a tactical point of view

Also, you may wish to advise which skills you want me to observe and focus on.

COST

\$55 per match or training session

Note: Can send multiple matches and/or training sessions if wish to. Cost will increase (example, \$110 for 2 matches) if more matches and/or training sessions are required to be viewed.

PROCESS

Step 1

Send match/s and/or training session/s

Ways of sending are,

- Post if using Disc, Video Tape or Memory Stick
- Email
- YouTube

If send through post, provide pre paid envelope so can return to you.

If send through YouTube, provide link/details so I can observe.

Step 2

I'll confirm receiving info by email and/or txt message.

Step 3

A report will be provided. There are 2 options to choose from. They are,

1. Written report to be emailed and/or sent in mail together with Disc, Video Tape or Memory Stick if required.

OR

2. Verbal report to be done via phone or internet (Skype – my Skype contact is mark.smythe1).

You will need to advise which one is preferred.

PAYMENT

Cheque made payable to,

Mark Smythe

4 Banner Court

Glen Waverley

Victoria 3150

Payment can be made with Step 1 or before Step 3 is completed. Once received, I will confirm via email and/or txt message.

I guarantee all information will remain confidential.

This service can be used on a need basis as part of your ongoing development.

If have any questions, please contact me on,

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ducksmythe@hotmail.com